

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-22 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, claim 7 has been amended to depend upon claim 1 and claim 6 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added to the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's objection to claims 2-22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the objected to limitations of claim 6, thereby placing claim 1 in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) Rejection of Claim 1

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,175,619 (DeSimone) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,452,922 (Ho). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot in light of independent claim 1 being amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 6. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. If the Examiner believes that any issues remain unresolved, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcome.

Respectfully,
Fen-Chung Kung et al.

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 7.

1. (Amended) A network method performed by a Call Broker for establishing a voice call between text chat participants in a data network text chat session comprising

receiving a message from a first chat participant requesting the establishment of a voice call between ones of said chat participants, said message including information identifying a method of payment for said voice call,

sending a message to said first chat participant providing voice call session information and at least one authorization code,

receiving a message from a second of said chat participants requesting participation in said voice call and presenting said voice call session information and an authorization code,

requesting call setup means to setup voice call links to each of a plurality of voice call participants comprising at least said first and second chat participants, at least one of said setup voice call links being a Voice over IP (VoIP) link, and

directing bridging means to bridge said setup voice call links.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [6] 1 wherein said information identifying a method of payment includes billing authorization information.

Cancel claim 6.